



## **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

### **Wiki Wiki News**

Official Publication of the 25th National Veterans Golden Age Games

Thursday-Friday, May 26-27, 2011

[www.veteransgoldenagegames.va.gov](http://www.veteransgoldenagegames.va.gov)

## **Welcome to Honolulu!**

### **Dewayne Vaughan, Director, National Veterans Golden Age Games**

Aloha! It is my great pleasure to welcome our “Patriots in Paradise” for the 25th National Veterans Golden Age Games.

As the largest of VA’s six National Programs and Special Events, we have over 900 Veteran athletes in beautiful Honolulu for this year’s competition. And while the location is enough to take your breath away, the competition promises to be just as exciting.

From golf to swimming to horseshoes, the thrill of competing with other Veterans is sure to hold something special for all. The exhibition event of canoeing also promises to showcase native Hawaiian sport as part of VA’s premier senior rehabilitation games.

This is also a special year as we commemorate the 70th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Many of you will take the opportunity to tour the Valor in the Pacific National Monument and the Punchbowl National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. It truly is a privilege to see these sites and I encourage you to experience all the history of this beautiful island.

On behalf of the National Veterans Golden Age Games team, mahalo, or thank you, to our hosts the VA Pacific Islands Healthcare System and the VA Sierra Pacific Network and the wonderful volunteers who have worked tirelessly to make this event possible. Special thanks also to all of our sponsors, especially our co-sponsors — VA, Help Hospitalized Veterans and Veterans Canteen Service — along with the many corporate and community sponsors who have made this event so successful.

And to our Veteran athletes — pomaika’i!

## **Special Events This Week**

### **Thursday**

### **Opening Ceremony**

For this year's 25th we have over 900 Veteran participants — it's the largest Golden Age Games yet! The Opening Ceremony kicks off Thursday, May 26 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at Kuroda Field, which is the large open field across from the Hale Koa Hotel's parking garage. As you walk to the Opening Ceremony, please cross only at the designated crosswalks. Honolulu Police officers will be there to assist with crossings. This is a free event, open to all veterans, guests, coaches and the public.

## **Friday**

### **Veterans Canteen Service — Taste of Hawaii**

Brought to you by the Veterans Canteen Service is a special dining event at this year's Golden Age Games, called Taste of Hawaii.

It all takes place Friday, May 27 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Museum Quad (it's the large park area past the Hale Koa Hotel, heading towards Diamond Head; follow the beach walkway, it's just before the Army Museum). Bring your camera — there will be photo ops! Remember your ticket, only ticket holders will be permitted to enter the fenced event area.

## **Don't Miss While in Hawaii!**

### **Valor in the Pacific National Monument**

The USS Arizona Memorial is part of the recently dedicated WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument. It is built over the sunken battleship and final resting place for many of the 1,177 crewmen killed on December 7, 1941 in Japan's attack at Pearl Harbor.

A free shuttle to Pearl Harbor will be provided for NVGAG Veterans and their guests twice daily beginning Friday, May 27 through Tuesday, May 31 (except for Memorial Day — no shuttle service). Trips leave from the Hilton Tapa Tower bus depot and last from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon or from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Boarding begins 20 minutes prior to departure both going to and coming from the Valor in the Pacific Monument.

Pre-registered veterans and guests will board first; remaining seats will be available on a first-come first-served basis. Those pre-registered will not need to stand in line for USS Arizona tickets.

### **National Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl**

Built in 1948, this National Cemetery is located at Puowaina Crater, today known as Punchbowl. The cemetery is a memorial to the men and women of the U.S. Armed Services. It includes 775 casualties from the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, and the impressive Honolulu Memorial which honors the sacrifices and achievements of the American Armed Forces of the Pacific during WWII, Korea and Vietnam.

A free shuttle to Punchbowl will be provided from the Tapa Tower bus depot for NVGAG Veterans and their guests on Friday, May 27, Saturday, May 28 and Tuesday, May 31. Pre-registered veterans and guests will board first, 20 minutes before 8:30 a.m. departure time, with return trip at 11:00 a.m.

A shuttle will also be available for the special Memorial Day Service on Monday, May 30 at 7:30 a.m., returning at approximately 11:30 a.m.

## **Connect Online!**

All that's happening in Honolulu this week won't fit into this newsletter! Get more stories, photos and videos from the Golden Age Games online and in social media. Start at the VA home page at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov). From there, "Like" us on Facebook, follow our Twitter posts, see more photos at Flickr and watch videos on VA's YouTube channel.

[www.facebook.com/VeteransAffairs](http://www.facebook.com/VeteransAffairs)

[www.twitter.com/DeptVetAffairs](http://www.twitter.com/DeptVetAffairs)

[www.flickr.com/VeteransAffairs](http://www.flickr.com/VeteransAffairs)

[www.youtube.com/DeptVetAffairs](http://www.youtube.com/DeptVetAffairs)

## **Have a Smartphone?**

Keep an eye out for the symbol above over the next week. It's called a QR code, or quick response code. With the right app on your smartphone, you can take a picture of the code and jump directly to exclusive Golden Age Games content created throughout the week. Download one of the free apps listed below, then use the app to scan these codes wherever you see them. Scan the code above to see where it takes you!

### **For iPhone, Blackberry & Palm:**

Neo Reader

### **For Windows Phones:**

Microsoft Tag

### **For Android Phones**

Barcode Scanner

## **Odds & Ends**

### **NVGAG Medical Suite**

Available 24 hours May 25-June 1 at Hilton Hawaiian Village, Tapa Tower, Rooms 3329-3330. The NVGAG medical team will not be able to write new prescriptions for visiting athletes and will not write prescriptions for narcotics and other controlled drugs.

There is no regular VA hospital in Honolulu. Honolulu VA clinic hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There will be one shuttle to and from the clinic per day which allows for a very quick visit and turnaround time.

### **Wheelchair & Prosthetics**

Durable medical equipment, prosthetics, and wheelchair repair by Invacare. Located at Hilton Hawaiian Village, Tapa Tower 2nd floor, Iolani Suites 5-6. Available May 26-31 from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.; June 1 from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. From your Hilton hotel room dial 62063, or dial "0" and ask for extension 62063.

### **Horseshoes Schedule**

To better accommodate Veterans' schedules on Saturday, May 28, that day's Horseshoes

event will be moved back 30 minutes.

### **Shuttle to Golf on Friday**

Both Ambulatory and Visually Impaired Golf will be at Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam (JBPHH). Transportation will be provided for all athletes, family, guests, sponsors and coaches who have registered in advance. Spectators must register at the JBPHH registration desk in the Tapa Tower lobby before 4:00 p.m. Thursday, May 26 to be admitted through base security. Those registered as an athlete, coach, support staff or non-athlete will already be on the list.